

Questions and Answers

Early Childhood Inclusion Specialists and Project Coordinator - 1/2/2020 7:40:00 AM

Number: 2020-11

Questions and Answers:

Q: Clarification of Vision

Posted On: 1/15/2020 9:23:10 AM

As an organization are we applying for funding to utilize and retain an inclusion specialist to work directly with our organization or is the structure of the grant essential an application process for a coordinator and specialist to apply for a position?

A: The vision is to have a number of inclusion specialists who are readily available to work across the entire state supporting a variety of programs under the guidance of the Project Coordinator.

Answered On: 1/22/2020 12:54:17 PM

Q: Dat of Implementation

Posted On: 1/16/2020 8:50:18 AM

What is the anticipated implementation date?

A: If we are talking about implementation of the contracts, we would like the project coordinator position to start in April or May of 2020, and the inclusion specialists to start May or June of 2020.

Answered On: 1/22/2020 12:54:55 PM

If you are talking about program implementation, that will begin upon successful completion of the Inclusive Classroom Profile training, which we are projecting for the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2020.

Q: Funding

Posted On: 1/16/2020 3:54:38 PM

What is the total amount of money available?

A: The Department of Education is seeking fair proposals that meet the specifications provided and will negotiate with the selected vendors to determine a final amount should a budgetary gap exist.

Answered On: 1/22/2020 12:46:49 PM

Q: About the Project

Posted On: 1/16/2020 4:05:17 PM

How did the state determine this initiative is the right solution?

A: Improving the percentage of preschool children with IEPs being served in regular early childhood settings alongside their peers without disabilities, which is a major emphasis of the IDEA.

Answered On: 1/22/2020 12:53:53 PM

Q: About the Project

Posted On: 1/16/2020 4:06:10 PM

How is success defined for this project?

<p>A: Several factors determined the development of this initiative. A cross-sector focus group was convened to consider options for projects that would be funded with Child Care Development Grant Funds awarded to Delaware. The group reviewed data from the required federal reporting on serving children with identified disabilities in regular early childhood programs. The data is very clear (IDEA Annual Performance Report for Delaware) that Delaware school districts face challenges in having a full continuum of alternative placements for children with IEPs, meaning the capacity to serve children in regular early childhood programs must be increased. Delaware has not been meeting the percentage targets for this requirement, which is Indicator 6 in the APR. The Office of Special Education programs has been very clear that the requirements for serving preschool age children with IEPs is the same as it is for the K-12 population and has issued strong guidance to that effect.</p>	<p>Answered On:</p>	<p>1/22/2020 12:54:33 PM</p>
<p>Q: About the Project</p> <p>What specific problems is this initiative trying to solve?</p>	<p>Posted On:</p>	<p>1/16/2020 4:06:45 PM</p>
<p>A: Improving the percentage of preschool children with IEPs being served in regular early childhood settings alongside their peers without disabilities, which is a major emphasis of the IDEA.</p>	<p>Answered On:</p>	<p>1/22/2020 12:47:26 PM</p>
<p>Q: Incumbent</p> <p>Is there an existing vendor(s) already providing such services or is this a new initiative?</p>	<p>Posted On:</p>	<p>1/16/2020 4:07:18 PM</p>
<p>A: This is a new initiative.</p>	<p>Answered On:</p>	<p>1/22/2020 12:47:09 PM</p>
<p>Q: About the Project</p> <p>What factors led to establishing the pilot program?</p>	<p>Posted On:</p>	<p>1/16/2020 4:07:20 PM</p>
<p>A: Delaware is not meeting the targets for serving preschool children with IEPs in regular early childhood settings, which are defined as childcare centers, private preschools, Head Start. Classrooms must have at least 50% of the enrollment at the classroom level to be children who do not have an IEP to be considered a regular early childhood setting. Delaware must expand opportunities to serve children with IEPs in regular early childhood settings, this pilot program is a strategy to expand those settings.</p>	<p>Answered On:</p>	<p>1/22/2020 12:55:32 PM</p>
<p>Q: Partnerships</p> <p>What are the connections to the state's QRIS?</p>	<p>Posted On:</p>	<p>1/16/2020 4:09:39 PM</p>
<p>A: Delaware is currently revising the QRIS, known as STARs. Part of the revision will include the value that to be considered a high quality early childhood program, inclusive practices are embedded in the everyday routines and activities, allowing equitable access for all children, wherever they are in their learning stages. The IS will support this value through their work on the Inclusive Classroom Profile.</p>	<p>Answered On:</p>	<p>1/22/2020 12:51:19 PM</p>
<p>Q: Funding</p>	<p>Posted On:</p>	<p>1/16/2020 4:11:45 PM</p>

What are the funding sources supporting this initiative?

A: The pilot program will be funded federally. If the pilot program is a success, the initiative could be state or federally funded.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:50:32 PM

Q: Target Population

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:12:54 PM

Does this initiative include infants and toddlers or only preschool age? Is it age-specific?

A: For this first pilot the focus will be on children ages 3-5.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:55:15 PM

Q: Evaluation

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:16:07 PM

Does evaluation mean internal analysis or is it externally validated through a research institution/partner?

A: It means internal analysis.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:50:48 PM

Q: Daycare Providers

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:16:37 PM

How is the pool of providers to be served defined? How are private daycare providers defined as it relates to this RFP? Specifically, who is to be served in this project?

A: The target audience for this pilot are private child care centers, private preschools and Head Start centers.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:49:27 PM

Q: Evaluation

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:17:10 PM

Does the office of early learning already have an evaluation partner? What are the evaluation expectations?

A: Not at this time, that is part of this RFP.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:49:45 PM

Q: Partnerships

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:17:44 PM

What is the current awareness and buy-in of the LEAs for this project? Are relationships already established with the LEAs and the state? To what degree have LEAs have already been involved to this point?

A: The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) has an interagency agreement with Part C, which is under a different lead agency, the DHSS/DMS. A state level interagency agreement is a requirement of the IDEA. The DDOE does not have individual MOUS with LEAs, as it is not required. The DDOE has general supervisory duties related to the implementation and compliance with the Delaware Special Education Regulations and the IDEA.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:48:59 PM

Q: Partnerships

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:18:05 PM

Has the state established MOUs with the Part C (birth-3) and LEAs (3-5) who are responsible for the evaluation and IEP development under IDEA?

A: LEAs have been made aware of this RFP via monthly meetings with the LEA 619 personnel. LEAs were represented on the cross-sector focus group mentioned in an earlier question. The Early Childhood Inclusion Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Delaware Early Childhood Council is aware of and supportive of this initiative.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:50:08 PM

Q: Service Subscriptions

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:18:10 PM

What are the kinds of service subscriptions needed? Does this include technology solutions?

A: As an independent consultant you will be required to furnish your own computer and internet access. Any programs specifically required for the pilot program will be supplied by the DOE.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:48:06 PM

Q: Project Timeline

Posted On:

1/16/2020 4:20:31 PM

Are the 20 days referring to the execution of the contract or beginning services? What is the expected timeline to begin providing services?

A: DOE would like the project coordinator position to start in April or May of 2020, and the inclusion specialists to start May or June of 2020.

Answered
On:

1/22/2020 12:48:26 PM
